

REMARKS

Claims 13-32 are in the application. In the most recent office action an objection was presented to the drawings, claims 22-25 were rejected under Section 112 and all of the claims were rejected under Section 102 or under Section 103 based on Karna (U.S.5,291,299) alone or in combination with other art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested in view of the above amendments, the drawings submitted herewith and the following remarks.

SUBMITTAL OF REPLACEMENT SHEET TO OVERCOME
OBJECTION TO THE DRAWING

In presenting an objection to the drawings the Examiner requested labeling of all blocks with descriptive text. In response thereto, the enclosed replacement sheet provides descriptive text in addition to reference numerals. Removal of the objection is therefore requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER SECTION 112

Claims 23-25 were rejected for lack of antecedent basis in using the term OFDM method. Appropriate corrections are made.

REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims under Sections 102 and 103 is requested in view of the above amendment to the sole independent claim number 13. In the rejection of claim 13, under Section 102, the Examiner read the subject matter directly upon the Karna reference. Applicants never intended to cover that subject matter and have revised claim 13 to assure that it is fully distinguished over this prior art. Specifically, it is noted that the Karna reference discloses a control signal that "controls a power stage 4 producing supply voltage for the lighting

units 1 [See col. 2, lines 44-46].” Further, the reference discloses that the “power stage 4 may utilize “power commutated components, such as GTO thyristors … [col. 2, lines 53-57].” Also, a counter 3 is used to set an operating cycle length. See col. 2, lines 59-62. Based on the foregoing it appears that the power stage 4 of Karna is a power switch that simultaneously activates all of the lighting units 1 in the associated circuit. As now noted, this is very different from the claimed invention.

The system of claim 13 provides a central communications apparatus and for communication between the central communications apparatus and the signaling apparatuses whereas the Karna reference provides a control unit instead of a communications apparatus and the Karna reference does not provide communication between a communications apparatus and a signaling apparatus. It is only the applicants who teach communication to signaling apparatuses. The Karna reference only provides a control signal to a power stage to produce a “supply voltage for the lighting units.” See col. 2, lines 44-46. There is no communication signal to the lighting units of Karna. Nor does the Karna reference disclose using a number of frequency bands for the communication between the central communications apparatus and the signaling apparatuses.

Although other art has been cited in combination with the Karna reference to reject some of the claim, e.g., Ward (U.S. 6,282,417) and Norman (2003/0160707), none of the other art of record compensates for the deficiencies noted in the Karna reference. Thus, based on the above-stated differences, the claims are distinct and non-obvious over the art of record. Further, the dependent claims recite numerous features which further distinguish over the prior art. For example, claim 31 requires decentralized communication apparatuses forming an adaptive system.

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Conclusion

Based on the above remarks and the amendments made herein, the application should be allowed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: One Sheet of Replacement Drawing